

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

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PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) 27 -05- 2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference

E39619 JFL/J

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

PCT/NO2005/000047

International filing date (day/month/year)

11.02.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)

13.02.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

E04B 1/61, F16B 5/00

Applicant

GUTTORMSEN, Ove Kornelius

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further opinions, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/NO2005/000047

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language, _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

- ☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

- ☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

- ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

International application No.

PCT/NO2005/000047

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------------|-----|
| Novelty (N) | Claims | 1-13 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |
| Inventive step (IS) | Claims | 3, 5-8, 10-13 | YES |
| | Claims | 1, 2, 4, 9 | NO |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Claims | 1-13 | YES |
| | Claims | | NO |

2. Citations and explanations:

The invention relates to a device for connecting structural elements; the device consisting of a male component and a female component having at least over a part of their length wedge-shaped engaging parts having an almost dovetail-like, gradually decreasing cross-section; and wherein the male component and the female component are mountable on a face or edge of the structural elements in order, on movement of the structural elements relative to each other, to cause the male and female components to engage wedgingly. The male and female components each have at least one portion designed for abutment against each other and arranged to prevent the male component from penetrating wedgingly to the maximum into the female component, thereby avoiding mutual deformation of the male and female components or material strain thereof on penetration.

The invention also relates to a device for connecting structural elements, wherein the device consists of at least two male components and two female components which are mountable on a face or edge of the structural elements in order, on movement of the structural elements relative to each other, to cause the male and female elements to engage.

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US 2793407 A
D2: US 3037593 A
D3: US 5244300 A
D4: US 3683429 A
D5: GB 130911 A

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Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of: BOX V

Document D1 is considered to represent the closest prior art. Each of D1, D2 and D3 describes a device for connecting structural elements; the device consisting of a male component and a female component having at least over a part of their length wedge-shaped engaging parts having an almost dovetail-like, gradually decreasing cross-section; and wherein the male component and the female component are mountable on a face or edge of the structural elements in order, on movement of the structural elements relative to each other, to cause the male and female components to engage wedgingly. The male and female components each have one portion designed for abutment against each other. The purpose of this is not mentioned in the cited documents, but it is considered obvious to a person skilled in the art that this abutment against each other prevents the male component from penetrating wedgingly to the maximum into the female component, thereby avoiding mutual deformation of the male and female components or material strain thereof on penetration. Consequently, claim 1 lacks inventive step.

D1 further describes that the male component is equipped with two lugs that are arranged to abut against and be supported by respective edge portions on the wedge-shaped engaging part of the female component and that the female component is equipped with a projecting stop that extends out from a portion arranged in continuation of the wedge-shaped engaging part, the stop being arranged to abut against and support the narrowest end portion of the wedge-shaped engaging part of the male component. Consequently, claims 2 and 4 lack inventive step.

Document D3 further describes that an angle piece is attachable to an end portion of the female part. Consequently, claim 9 lack inventive step.

Documents D4 and D5 represent the general state of the art. These documents do not give any indication that would lead a person skilled in the art to the claimed device for connecting structural elements. Therefore, according to D4 and D5, claims 1-13 are considered to involve an inventive step.

The invention is novel and is industrially applicable.